

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



THE following circular letter has been sent out to the physicians of New York City by the Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the Charity Organization Society, as a result of practical suggestions made by Miss Wald, who is a member of the committee:

"The Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the Charity Organization Society takes this opportunity while the American Tuberculosis Exhibition is being held at the Natural History Museum, and while the subject of tuberculosis is prominently before the community, to call to the attention of the medical profession of the City of New York the consequences arising from the practice of sending poor consumptives to such States as Arizona, Colorado and California. Extensive experience has taught us that, difficult as it may be for a poor man to recover from tuberculosis in this city, he is better off here among his friends and relatives, where there are more adequate hospital and dispensary facilities, than he is far from home, where he is thrown entirely upon his own resources and where the great number of consumptives willing to work at the lowest wages makes the finding of employment, especially of suitable employment, almost impossible.

"Favorable results from climate can hardly be looked for unless at least \$10 per week can be spent for board and lodging. The stranger, who has spent a large part of his savings on railroad fare, soon finds himself without work, living in the poorest rooms, eating the scantiest and cheapest food.

"The practice of advising the removal to other climates thus defeats its own aims and casts upon the charity of other communities a burden which they should not and cannot sustain.

"We invite the coöperation of the medical profession, therefore, in preventing persons suffering from tuberculosis from being sent to other States unless;

"(a) They are physically able to work and have secured in advance a definite assurance of the opportunity to perform work of a proper character at wages sufficient for their suitable support; or,

"(b) Unless they have at their disposal at least \$250 in addition to railroad fare."

MISS IDA STEWART's paper on "The Twentieth Century Matron" read at the Matrons' Council the other day in London, was full of the wisdom of experience supported by observation and tolerance. We quote a few of her sayings:

"Looking back on more than eighteen years, when I was first matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, nothing strikes me more than the difference in the candidates who enter the service of the hospital as probationers now, and those who did so then. I do not say they are not so good; I only say they are different, and require different handling. * * * Believing that this difference is superficial, I believe also that the quality is as good as ever. * * *

"The only respect that is worth having is what comes from an unflinching, unflinching justice, and that is wonderfully unlike popularity. Let the nurses feel that the Matron will give them justice, and they will give the Matron their confidence. Justice is a hard road to travel, and there are pitfalls on each side, the temptation of popularity on one side, the danger of too great severity on the other, for justice is always greatest when tempered with mercy.

A SENSE OF PROPORTION

"A sense of proportion is one of the qualities which, like a sense of humour, men think belongs exclusively to the male mind. I do not know how common it is with men, but I know it is curiously uncommon with women. It consists in seeing each person and event (including ourselves) as they stand in relation to each other, as they might appear if we looked through the wrong end of the telescope. No woman can have it who is always watching other people, and no woman can have it who is always watching herself. It is a peculiarly difficult quality for a Matron to develop in her own hospital, it is really practically impossible. There she is deferred to in every particular, her wish is law, everyone rises when she goes into a room, and naturally she is apt to get to think herself a little god, and she is perhaps the only person who does not see the tin wheels. She can really only acquire this quality by going out into the world and rubbing shoulders with men and women of other, and, if possible, larger interests. This she should do as a duty, both to herself and to the hospital, for no one can be either just or generous who cannot see the relative positions and values of persons and events. I have heard Matrons praised who almost never went out: 'Think of the devotion to her work,' say they. Heaven help the hospital, say I, for vain is the help of man."